Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OES-07 OMB-01 IGA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /106 W

R 080920Z SEP 77 FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8515 INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK AMEMBASSY PARIS USUN NEW YORK 603 AMCONSUL HONG KONG CINCPAC

CONFIDENTIAL VIENTIANE 1274

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: EAGR EAID PGOV PORG LA (WHO, UNDP)

SUBJECT: NEW ESTIMATES ON EXTENT OF EMERGENCY FOOD NEED IN LAOS

REF: A VIENTIANE 1244, B VIENTIANE 1245

- 1. THE RESIDENT WFP OFFICIAL IN VIENTIANE TOLD US SEPTEMBER 8 THAT FOLLOWING A CONVERSATION WITH THE UNDP RESREP IN VIENTIANE, WHO IS COORDINATING THE RECENT EMERGENCY RICE AID APPEAL (REF A, B), HE AND THE RESREP JOINTLY SENT A CABLE SEPTEMBER 7 TO THE WFP EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE SECTION PLACING THE LPDR'S FOOD AID NEEDS AT 100,000 METRIC TONS OF RICE AND 60,000 METRIC TONS OF WHEAT FLOUR.
- 2. THE WFP OFFICIAL TOLD US THAT HE INTENDED TO REQUEST WFP EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF 3,000 CONFIDENTIAL

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TO 4,000 TONS OF RICE AND 500 TONS OF WHEAT FLOUR. HE SAID THAT HE SUSPECTED THAT SUCH A LARGE QUANTITY OF WHEAT FLOUR FOR LAOS AS 60,000 TONS MIGHT IN FACT BE DESTINED FOR USE IN THE SRV OR VY VIETNAMESE TROOPS IN LAOS.

3. COMMENT: THE UN RESREP IS SCHEDULED TO REVISIT THE

DROUGHT STRICKEN AREAS IN SOUTHERN LAOS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. WITH THE ADVENT OF RAINS, IN THE SOUTHERN REGION (AND IN THE VIENTIANE REGION) IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT THE UNDP RESREP MAY REVISE DOWNWARD THE ORIGINAL REPORT'S CONCLUSION THAT LAOS WOULD NEED 367,000 TONS OF RICE (REF B).

4. SINCE THE ORIGINAL REPORT WAS JOINTLY PREPARED BY THE UNDP AND THE LAO GOVERNMENT (MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE) THE RESREP WILL PRESUMABLY HAVE TO CLEAR ANY REVISION IN THE REPORT'S FIGURES THROUGH THE LPDR. WHILE WE THOUGHT THE 367,000 TON FIGURE WAS HIGH, WE BELIEVE THE 100,000 FIGURE MAY TURN OUT TO BE LOW. CORCORAN

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Message Attributes

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Subject: NEW ESTIMATES ON EXTENT OF EMERGENCY FOOD NEED IN LAOS

TAGS: EAGR, EAID, PGOV, PORG, LA, WHO, UNDP

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